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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,439	08/02/2001	Gurbinder Singh Kalsi	60130-1179/00MRA0557	6121

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EXAMINER

MCANULTY, TIMOTHY P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3682

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n N .

09/921,439

Applicant(s)

KALSI ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy P McNulty

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,9,10 and 12-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,8 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) /
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1,5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the motor as claimed in claims 1 and 14 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. This application lacks formal drawings, specifically the reference numerals and figure labels are not clearly written and distinguishable. The informal drawings filed in this application are acceptable for examination purposes. When the application is allowed, applicant will be required to submit new formal drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The recitation of “the stop device” in line 1 of claim 12 lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1,2,5-7,9,10, and 12-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application EP 0 684 356 A1.

EP 0 684 356 A1 discloses in figures 14-16, an actuator comprising a chassis; a rotatable gear 5 driveable by a motor 3; an output element 7; a resilient drive transfer device 19; ramps 5d which connect and disconnect the drive transfer device from the output element; and a resilient stop member 8 pivotally connected to the chassis; said stop member having a forward stop arm and a reverse stop arm.

Regarding claim 1, the drive transfer device is inherently operably disconnectable from the output lever.

Regarding claim 9, the drive transfer device is inherently operably re-connectable with the output lever.

Regarding claim 18 and 21, the stop member is inherently resiliently movable by changing of an angle between the forward stop arm and the reverse stop arm.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 3,4,8, and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, the prior art discloses or teaches the basic apparatus as previously cited but does not disclose said drive transfer device to move non-radially relative to the gear wheel to effect connection and disconnection of the gear wheel and output lever.

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Regarding claim 8, the prior art discloses or teaches the basic apparatus as previously cited but does not disclose said drive transfer device being a pin resiliently biased in a first direction by a first resilient means.

Regarding claim 11, the prior art discloses or teaches the basic apparatus as previously cited but does not disclose said drive transfer device being a pin resiliently biased in a first direction by a first resilient means and resiliently biased in a second direction by a second resilient means.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art regarding actuators for vehicle door locks in general:

US Patent No. 5,649,726 to Rogers, Jr. et al.

US Patent No. 5,106,133 to Fukumoto et al.

US Patent No. 4,779,912 to Ikeda et al.

US Patent No. 4,739,677 to Kofink et al.

US Patent No. 4,706,512 to McKernon et al.

US Patent No. 4,664,430 to Bernard

US Patent No. 4,597,480 to Schwarz

US Patent No. 3,768,325 to Kucharski, Jr.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy P McNulty whose telephone number is 703.308.8684. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on 703.308.3668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.305.7687 for regular communications and 703.305.7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.1113.

tpm

May 15, 2003

William C. Joyce 5/15/03
William C. Joyce
Patent Examiner